



U. S. Department of Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MICHAEL AARON O'KEEFE, FORMER LEE COUNTY MATH TEACHER  
SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT**

United States Attorney Maxwell Wood, announced today that **Michael Aaron O'Keefe**, a former Lee County High School Math Teacher, was sentenced today in United States District Court, Albany, Georgia, by the Honorable Judge W. Louis Sands, to a term of imprisonment of 210 months, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, including the requirement that he register as a sex offender in the State of Georgia. O'Keefe was also ordered to pay a mandatory assessment fees of \$400.00.

On November 30, 2004, Michael Aaron O'Keefe was convicted by a jury in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia, Albany, Georgia, of One Count of Receipt of Child Pornography, One Count of Advertising Child Pornography, and Two Counts of Possession of Child Pornography. The defendant has been in custody since the guilty verdicts on November 30, 2004.

The Government's Evidence showed:

- The defendant possessed numerous images of child pornography both on a personal computer and a diskette in his home.
- The defendant set up a website entitled "*HCTweens*" (meaning hardcore child pornography) while working as a math teacher at Lee County High School on December 18, 2002, using a computer in his classroom.
- The "*HCTweens*" website advertised for photos of girls ages 5-12

engaging in hardcore sexual conduct, including anal sex, vaginal sex and oral sex. The website also contained a "*poll*" for visitors to participate in, asking for details of the kind of sexual activity they liked to engage in with girls aged 5-12 years.

- The defendant also posed as a 12 year old girl and her 13 year old friend in sexually explicit email exchanges with an adult male and sent child pornography to this adult male. In one such e-mail the defendant offered (while posing as a young girl) to have unprotected anal sex with the adult male if he would send "her" (O'Keefe) images of adults having sex with young girls.

The defendant admitted at trial that he set up the "*HCTweens*" website from Lee County High School, and further admitted that he had certain child pornography images on his computer. However, defense counsel contended that O'Keefe was a vigilante, working undercover to expose internet predators and child pornographers, until his computer was hacked by a "*Trojan Horse Virus*."

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Georgia by Assistant United States Attorney Jim Crane, together with the Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Trial Attorney Damon King, and Special Agents Cory Brant and Alberto Prieto of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

Any questions concerning this matter should be addressed to Maxwell Wood, United States Attorney, attention Sue McKinney, Media Contact, United States Attorney's Office, at (478) 621-2602.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

  
MAXWELL WOOD  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY